

Taylor Park Parent Newsletter October 22, 2021

Happiness is... Having Meals as a Family

I am often asked by parents about what can be done at home to help students learn the best at school. Parents want the best for their children and want to make the best use of time at home. Having family mealtimes together can have a surprising impact. It's not so much about the food but about the way [eating connects us](#). Having set family mealtimes with an expectation that everyone participates is one of the best ways for families to connect, relieve stress and laugh together. Sharing the activities of the day, a daily joke, discussing the news, sharing a meme, talking about when parents were children, making plans for events together – all these can take place around the dinner table. When students have regular mealtimes, they take that habit with them to school so they eat their snacks and lunch with their peers instead of skipping meals – which means they won't be hangry students that aren't ready to learn! [When students are involved in helping with family mealtimes by preparing food, helping set the table, clean up and do dishes they are given a way to express their love by their actions](#). This helps children to be less focused on themselves at other times. When children don't have responsibilities at home, they take that habit to school with them and it negatively effects their friendships, their ability to work in groups and their academic achievement. We ask our grade 6/7 students to write down and set goals for helping at home and we encourage children from kindergarten and up to have responsibilities at home. It takes effort on the part of parents but it's worth it! If you're having trouble with routines, expectations and connections at home, [our counsellor's blog](#) or [connecting with our counsellor](#) can help.

Assemblies by Zoom – Halloween and Remembrance Day

We will again be having our assemblies through Zoom. We will be watching and participating in classrooms through Zoom and parents are also welcomed. Our Halloween Assembly will be on Friday, October 29th from 1:15 – 2:00 pm and will feature interactive student dancing and student's Halloween Stories. Our Remembrance Day Assembly will feature songs by several classes. A link for the Remembrance Day Assembly will be sent out the week before the assembly.

Halloween Assembly Zoom Link – Friday, October 29th 1:15 – 2:00 pm

<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/68303048647?pwd=ZlBjT29hOEgzZVJ5MXZqakU5c0hMUT09>

Meeting ID: 683 0304 8647 Passcode: 228165

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Halloween Costumes

Our Grade 6/7 Leadership students are hosting a costume contest for Halloween and we're looking to have a lot of fun together even with Covid guidelines. Students should wear their costumes to school as there is extremely limited space for changing. Please remember that costumes should be non-violent, and all pretend weapons should be left at home. Our Covid safety guidelines should still be followed so please check costumes at home to make sure that wearing a mask works with the costume. Please also check that costumes will work for class activities. For example, long princess dresses could be a tripping hazard and heavy/big head gear can be uncomfortable...

Culturally Appropriate Costumes

While dressing up is fun and exciting, it also runs the risk of offending others. Halloween offers the opportunity to discuss costume choices with both colleagues and students. It is important not to inadvertently mimic culture by culturally appropriating racial or ethnic groups. [Please see our district reminder about this.](#)

Indigenous Art Project

All our Taylor Park students are going to help carve a wall plaque and totem for our front entranceway! This project will help build understanding and awareness of Indigenous culture and in support of meaningful reconciliation. We will work with artist-in-residence Winadzi Simon Daniel James for this project. He will guide our students through carving while weaving in storytelling and looking at the values of Indigenous symbols and our own values at Taylor Park. We are excited to have him join us along with his cousin, Sheryl Rivers, an elder with the Squamish Nation, in November for conversation with our school community. He will meet with each class to start planning the project beginning November first and second. We are grateful to PAC for helping fund this project.

Halloween Food Rules during Covid

For Covid safety reasons, staff and students are not permitted to share the same food they are eating. This means no sharing of chips from the same bag/bowl or common plates of food. Schools are not allowed to have homemade food items to be made available to other students at this time (e.g. birthday treats, cupcakes, bake sale items). Students or staff can bring "pre-packaged" treats for events like Halloween according to the sharing rules set up by the teacher. When there is snack time or candy eating time, students wash their hands before and after eating, eat at their desk (not walking around) and don't share their individual treats with others.

Photo Retake Day – October 25

Kindergarten students will have their photos taken on October 25th and students in grades one – seven can have their individual photo re-taken on October 25th. The photos will be used in our yearbook and parents can also purchase photo packages. There will be Covid safety precautions taken to ensure safety. Parents will be able to view photo packages for purchase online. [Further information as well as how to prepare your child are online.](#)

Pumpkin Patch Fun

Thanks to PAC for covering the cost of our pumpkin patch field trip for the school on Friday, October 15th. Students had a great time! Thanks to the grade 6/7 leadership students and to Ms. Sakic, Ms. Downie and Ms. Dunnett for organizing this!

PAC Meeting Thursday, October 28 – 7:00 pm by Zoom

All Taylor Park parents are welcome to join our PAC meeting. There will be an update on our Indigenous Art Project and School Goals as well as information about upcoming events, fundraising and an opportunity to discuss school issues.

Zoom

Link: <https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/62352291147?pwd=N0c0YnBYTXZwbVpDWWI5QmxCaXp0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 623 5229 1147 Passcode: 077005

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Yearbooks

Many people have already purchased their yearbook and we are in the process of taking photos and editing the book. It will be delivered in late June 2022. You can pre-order a yearbook now for \$30 and the price will go up February 2022.

Terry Fox Donations

Congratulations to all families who graciously donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. Our goal was \$1300 (a toonie for Terry from 630 students) but due to your generosity, we collected \$2211.40!

Purdy's Fundraiser

Taylor Park's PAC is excited to introduce Purdy's Chocolate for this year's Holiday Fundraiser. Please order Purdy's chocolates (early holiday shopping!) and the PAC receives a percentage of the sales to support initiatives and equipment for the school.

- To order, visit <https://fundraising.purdys.com/5256-87806>
- Browse through the catalogue and place an order online
- Order deadline: November 29, 2021
- Pick up date: December 15, 2021

Please share our Purdy's link with friends, family, social media, etc. The more sales we accumulate, the higher the percentage of profit we receive.

Hot Lunch Reminders

School Meal Hot Lunch Program for November is now open. Ordering online will be available from Monday, October 18 to Monday, October 25, 2021. Please visit [School Cash Online](#) to complete payment and return signed envelope with reference number as soon as possible. As a friendly reminder, Burnaby School District would like to reduce the amount of cash & cheques coming into our schools. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered for Cash Online and are enjoying the convenience of paying online. If you need any assistance or have any questions, please contact the office

Clothes for Rainy and Cold Weather

In the school year 2020-2021 we did not have any “inside days” when students stayed inside their classes during lunch time. Students went outside when it was sunny, rainy, snowing or even freezing outside and we expect this year to be the same. The benefits of fresh air, exercise, and an opportunity to play with friends from a variety of classes are important – especially during Covid restrictions. Please plan ahead and buy clothes for your children so they will be able to be comfortable outside. Having clothes to change into in a bag at school can be helpful, particularly for primary students.

Student Verification and Completing District Forms Online

If you haven't already, please fill in the online permission forms

- Student PEN
- Student Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD)
- Parent Primary Email

Once you have logged in, you will have access to the following consent forms:

1. Consent to Send Commercial Electronic Messages (CASL)
2. Media Release
3. Student Personal Information
4. Walking Permission
5. District Technologies & Information Systems: Student Acceptable Use Agreement
6. Office365 Permission

[Further information is available online.](#) If you have any questions, you can email the school at TaylorPark.Info@BurnabySchools.ca or call 604-296-9034. Having these forms online reduces paper and is a safer and more secure way to look after these areas.

Upcoming Dates:

Monday, October 25 – Photo Retake Day & Kindergarten Photos Day

Thursday, October 28 – PAC Meeting by Zoom – 7 pm

Friday, October 29 – Halloween Assembly by Zoom – 1:15 pm – Parents Welcome

November 1-2 – Indigenous Artist Visit (All classes will meet with our artist)

November 10 – 11 am Remembrance Day Assembly – Parents Welcome

Wednesday, November 11 – Remembrance Day Holiday – school closed

Friday, November 26 – District Pro-D Day –school closed

December 20, 2021 – January 3, 2022 – Christmas/Winter Holiday – school closed

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 – First Day of School for 2022

Monday, February 21, 2022 – Family Day Holiday

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – Pink Shirt Day

Friday, February 25, 2022 – District Pro-D Day – School Closed

March 14 – 25, 2022 Spring Break